

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01

SAM-01 SPC-01 DRC-01 /064 W
----- 041012

R 261420Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8250
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 348

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MOPS, CA, CY, UK, UN
SUBJECT: SUCCESSION SQUABBLE IN UNFICYP

1. UNSYG REP OSORIO RAISED WITH ME SMOULDERING ISSUE OF SUCCESSION TO UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF. PRESENT INCUMBENT IS BRITISH, DUE TO LEAVE NEXT AUGUST. PREDECESSOR HAD BEEN CANADIAN, ALL EARLIER CHIEFS OF STAFF WERE BRITISH. UNFICYP COMMANDER PREM CHAND LAST AUTUMN RECOMMENDED DEPUTY CHIEF BEATTIE (CANADIAN) TO REPLACE, GOT CONCURRENCE OF UNSYG AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. BELATEDLY, BRITISH RAISED SERIOUS OBJECTIONS IN OTTAWA AND NEW YORK, ASKED TO NOMINATE BRITISH REPLACEMENT. ISSUE TOOK ON UGLIER TURN WHEN THEY SUGGESTED THEY HAD DEROGATORY INFO CONCERNING BEATTIE'S PERSONAL LIFE AND DISCRETION.

2. OSORIO INDICATED THAT UNSPECIFIED BRITISH WERE CITING SOME MEMBER OF USUN STAFF AS HAVING CONFIRMED THEIR DOUBTS CONCERNING BEATTIE'S QUALIFICATIONS.

3. I ASSURED OSORIO THAT WE HAD NO QUESTIONS AS TO
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BEATTIE'S PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OR PERSONAL LIFE.

WE HAD BEEN AWARE THAT THERE WAS A TUG-OF-WAR, BUT
HAD ASSUMED THIS WAS A STRAIGHT MILITARY/BUREAUCRATIC
EFFORT TO PRESERVE A SLOT FOR A GENERAL OFFICER. WE DID
NOT FEEL IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR USG TO INVOLVE ITSELF
IN A DECISION WE BELIEVED WAS UP TO UNSYG AND UNFICYP.

4. OSORIO THANKED ME FOR ASSURANCE, SAID HE WOULD ASK
CHAND TO PASS IT TO URQUHART, WHOM HE WILL BE SEEING TOMORROW
IN STOCKHOLM. OSORIO ASSUMES CANADIAN ARMY WILL FIGHT FOR
DESIGNATION OF BEATTIE, SAYS THAT DESPITE VAGUE INDICATIONS
THAT BRITISH PARTICIPANTS IN UNFICYP WOULD BE LESS THAN
WHOLLY COOPERATIVE WITH BEATTIE, HE THINKS IT IMPORTANT TO
STAND ON PRINCIPLE, BUT HE WILL PROBABLY SUGGEST BEATTIE APPOINTMENT
FOR ONE YEAR.
GRANT

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